



# PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Volume 18

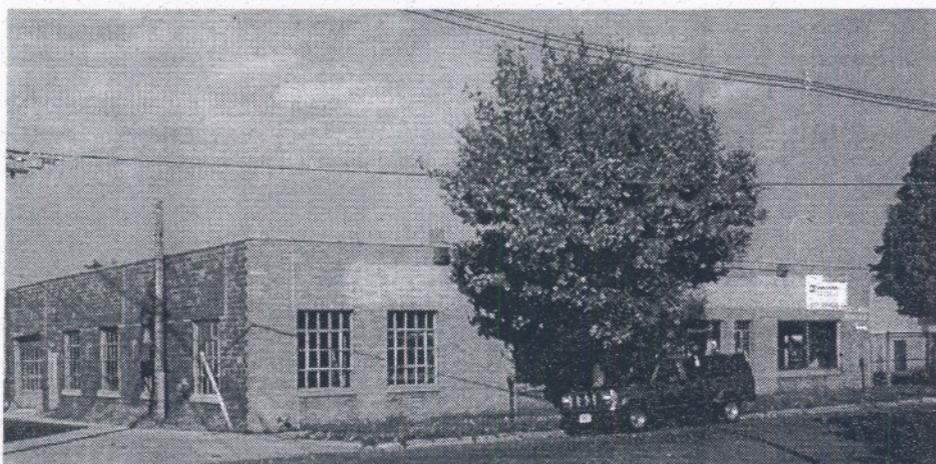
September-October, 1998

Number 5

## New Salvage Warehouse Purchased!

On October 27, PACA finalized purchase of a building to house its architectural salvage warehouse. After over twelve years of searching and five rejected bids on other buildings, the salvage warehouse now has a permanent and adequate home. The building, at 44 East Washington, Champaign, has 4,800 square feet of usable space, a small dry basement, and a fenced outdoor storage lot of about 3,000 square feet. Its concrete floor, tile and block walls and open truss ceiling make it an ideal building for storage of architectural items. It even has a "triage" area with an overhead garage door for ease of unloading and an office area where sales transactions can be handled in comfort. And for all of those old-timers, the building has heat and electricity—talk about uptown digs!

Needless to say, our dedicated salvage crew is ecstatic over the new building, but overwhelmed with the thought of moving. Plans are being made to organize the space for optimal use, so the move will take place over a series of days/weekends in November. Obviously, this is a huge task and volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping with either the move or post move organization, please contact PACA (328-7222).



44 East Washington Street, Champaign, site of the new PACA Architectural Salvage Warehouse. Lower left corner: Salvage volunteer Al Friederich contemplates all the wonderful space in the new building. Photos by Richard Cahill.

### Focus On: Salem Baptist Church

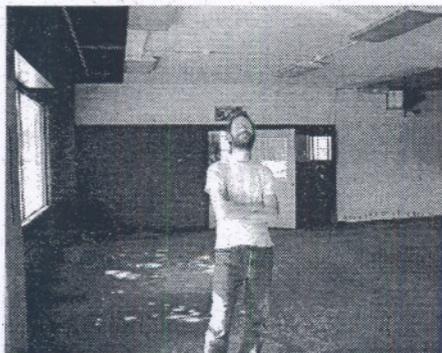
Salem Baptist Church, at 500 East Park Street, is the oldest African-American based church in Champaign. Because of this status, it has served as the cornerstone of the local African-American community and was recently designated a Champaign city landmark.

#### History

Salem Baptist Church has a rich history that dates back to 1867. There is even speculation that its beginnings may be as early as 1856, when members from a black Baptist church would meet. However, meetings dissolved with the onset of the Civil War and onslaught of slavery issues. The early founders in 1867, Ms. Kitty Lee, Sister Susan Franklin Johnson, Brother T.J. Shores, J.W. Randolph, and Martin Dandridge, created a new unit under the Missionary Baptist Church name (recognized by the three existing

churches which were the First Baptist Church of Champaign, the First Baptist Church of Urbana, and the First Baptist Church of Mahomet). The Church held meetings at the Old Coffee Place, at 406 East Park Street, and organized prayer bands that went door-to-door to recruit new black members. This Second Baptist Missionary Church was later recognized by the White Baptist Association. The first ordained pastor to serve the Church was the Reverend William Washington.

In 1869, Second Baptist purchased a lot on Park Street and constructed a building which was soon after destroyed by fire. Under the leadership of Reverend F. Gray, the Church bought a lot on Clark Street and built another building that was used for church services. In 1895, Reverend W. Helm oversaw the first complete Sunday School program. He also supervised the remodeling of the church, with the addition of a baptismal pool to accommodate the growing congregation. It was the thirteenth minister, Reverend J.H. Nickols, who decided in 1901 to prepare for future church expansion by



purchasing the lot at 500 East Park. However, it was the next minister, Reverend S.L. Edwards who directed the construction of the present building and changed the name from Second Baptist to Salem Baptist Church, all in 1908.

In 1917, the church underwent alterations with a lowering of the ceiling and redecoration of the interior. Under the pastorate of the eighteenth minister, Reverend R.A. Hayden, a lot behind the church was purchased in 1920 to provide room for the addition of bathrooms and a baptistery. Rev. Dabney Jones was in charge in 1925 when the entrance was changed from the west to the present south side. In 1948, under Reverend R.A. Lillard, the church purchased a parsonage with the help of a bank loan, which was paid off in 1950; a mortgage burning ceremony took place to mark this occasion. The congregation voted to build an education annex in 1957 that would provide for several uses such as a kitchen, classrooms, additional restrooms, banquet room, and pastor's study. With the renovation project, exterior work was done which included a reconstructed front entrance, cottage style windows, and new exterior oak doors.

Because the original building could not easily accommodate the elderly and the physically challenged, Salem parishioners decided to construct a new sanctuary in 1983, to be attached to the 1908 building. Construction began in 1991 with the help of church member donations and a bank loan. The sanctuary was completed in 1993. The sanctuary is a one story structure constructed of red brick and has arched windows to match the original church building. The original building is still used on special occasions.

### Cultural Heritage

Salem Baptist Church has been an active participant in addressing political and social issues in the African-American community. Three previous pastors who were very active were Rev. Eugene H. Williams (1956-1961), Rev. A. T. Rowan (1961-1964), and Rev. William H. Donaldson (1949-1953, 1968-1980). Rev. Williams and Rev. Rowan were both diligent in bringing the African-American community together during the civil rights movement of the 1960s, and striving to keep the economic and social environment healthy for both local African-American residents and college students. Rev. Rowan was involved particularly in trying to centralize the political power of African-Americans in the twin cities and addressing issues of segregation of housing subdivisions and public facilities. Rev. Donaldson con-



*Salem Baptist Church, 500 East Park, Champaign. Built in 1908, the church was recently designated a Champaign Landmark due to its significant contribution to the social history of the community. Photo by Richard Cahill.*

tinued the legacy by developing plans to build a bigger church in order to accommodate a larger congregation in hopes of becoming a stronger centralizing force in the community. He was also involved with Empty Tomb, a non-profit organization that helps gather various donations for low-income residents.

The present paster is Rev. Dr. Claude Shelby, who has been with the church since 1981. Under his pastorate, membership has flourished with the addition of a new Sunday School class and training staff. He has created Operation Excellence, which is an educational assistance program, and he was the main developer for the new sanctuary. He has supported the Grandmas Community Prayer Outreach, a prayer and volunteer group catering to elderly women, and in using Salem's fellowship hall and kitchen to cook and serve meals to the homeless and other poverty-stricken individuals. He also has been involved with Empty Tomb and Bread for Jesus.

Other current programs that Salem Baptist Church has created in an effort to address current issues within the African-American community are Missionary Circles, Family Fitness and Fellowship, Operation Excellence-Tutorial Program, Moms Too Soon, and Individual and Group Counseling.

Salem Baptist Church is located in north Champaign, where a large percentage of the local African-American population resides. It sits in the middle of single-family homes on Park Street and, serves as a institutional landmark of the community, particularly in this neighborhood.

### Architecture

The 1908 church building best fits the architectural style of Romanesque Revival. It is a two and one-half story building with a rectangular plan. Constructed in red, monochromatic brick, it has a gray asphalt shingle roof. The south end of the church, which has the main entrance, is characterized by symmetrical massing—two square towers anchoring the southwest and southeast ends and the main roof and building set between them. The main and east tower roofs are gabled. There is a large round window placed in the middle of the facade with a half-round window containing original stain glass above it.

The west tower, which is also the bell tower, contains the original bell that is still used for special services; it was donated by one of the first members, Lester Johnson, in 1867. This tower is taller than the east tower and is characterized by a pyramidal roof. The tower, with two visible sides from the street (south and west), has two infilled windows on all four sides of the belfry. The infilling of the windows is decorated with crosses. Both visible sides of the tower contain two round-arch double-hung windows, with the original stained glass, and hoodmolds on the second story level. On the first story, there is only one round-arch window centered in the middle of each side. The ground level of the south side has a multi-pane window, while the west and north sides each have a small square double-hung window.

The east tower also has two visible sides, south and east, but they have only one window with a round-arch top sash, hoodmolds, and the original stained glass

on their first and second stories. The ground floor has single multi-pane square windows on the east and south sides of the tower.

The south entrance to the church, remodeled in 1925, is a centered double door with a red, monochromatic brick porch with side stairs and a shed roof.

The west side of the building contains four double-hung four-over-four windows with original stained glass in the round-arch transoms; below are four square windows. The east side of the building is similar except it has only three of both types of windows. Both elevations do have brick buttresses that sit between the windows, four on the west side and three on the east side.

The names of a specific architect or builder have not been found, perhaps because all construction projects at the church were considered collaborative efforts of church members and volunteers.

Additions to the building occurred in 1957 and 1991 with the construction of an annex that is connected to the north side of the original church, and the addition of a new sanctuary, which was connected to the east side of the 1957 annex. Both additions match the red brick color of the original building.

Salem Baptist Church was designated a Champaign City Landmark on August 18, 1998 due to its significant value as part of the cultural and social heritage of the community and because it is an established and familiar visual feature in the community.

*This article was taken from the landmark nomination prepared by Chealon Shears, a student in Urban Planning.*

## Preservation Commission News

The Champaign Preservation Commission is looking to revise and possibly streamline the current nomination process. The nominations that were presented over the summer revealed that the process was somewhat cumbersome and lengthy; moreover the difference between the Commission's initial review of an application for completeness was being confused with the Commission's actual discussion of the merits of the nomination, which happens at a later meeting. Ways to improve this process are being investigated. The Commission is also looking to revise the actual application and to produce an easy to understand guide to the nomination process as a help to future nominators.

Mayor Tod Satterthwaite is in the process of interviewing nominees to the new Urbana Preservation Commission. Hopefully the process will be completed soon and a prospective commission will be presented to the City Council for approval. Ideally the commission will be seated by the beginning of the new year.

### Heritage Award Nominations Sought

The Heritage Award Committee is seeking nominations for the 1999 Awards. Categories include: Commercial, Adaptive Use, Residential, Landmark, Institutional, Landscape, Neighborhood and Special. Nominations are due by January 15, 1999.

## Champaign County Historical Society

The Champaign County Historical Society has been in existence since 1958. The Society meets six times a year in the auditorium of the Urbana Free Library; usually a speaker presents a program related to the history of the County. The purpose of the Society is to stimulate interest in the history of Champaign County; to collect and preserve any available historical material connected with or associated with the history of the County and its environs; to collect, preserve, and diffuse such documents, articles, and information as may be available in the field of history and genealogy connected with the County; and to provide opportunities for acquaintance and friendship among persons interested in the history of the County. The Society is actively seeking new members who share their interest in the history of Champaign County. Dues are only \$4.00 per year. Contact Mrs. Jean Wilson (344-6060) for further information or attend one of their free programs.

The programs for the remainder of 1998-1999 membership year are as follows:

- November 13 - Bruce Creamer and the Cunningham Family
- March 29 - Talk on Taes River
- April 13 - Annual joint meeting with the Genealogical Society
- May 24 - Mr. Donald Weckhorst and the history of Chanute Field

## Membership Application P.A.C.A.

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- Adult ..... \$15.00
- Student (1/2 time or more) ..... \$10.00
- Senior Citizen ..... \$10.00
- Family ..... \$20.00
- Corporate ..... \$75.00

- NEW
- RENEWAL

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

e mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: PACA, Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61825**

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



## PACA Picnic

The First PACA Membership Picnic was deemed a success by all those in attendance. About seventy people, of all ages, braved the heat and humidity last July for a congenial afternoon of BBQ, salad, and drinks. The historic Hazen Bridge, across the Sangamon River north of Mahomet, was the setting. Most PACA members had never visited the bridge before, which PACA has owned for about five years, and were impressed with both the unique pin connected Pratt through-truss bridge and its wonderful river landscape. PACA acquired the bridge in a land deal with Newcomb Township that resulted in a new bridge being built adjacent to the historic structure. A very generous donation of five acres of land by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Richmond allowed the bridge to be saved. The bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PACA would like to thank Judy and Larry van de Veer for their very generous hospitality and use of their yard for the picnic festivities.

## Salvage V.I.P.'s

Bob Swisher  
Gary Perkins  
Rich Cahill  
Cheri Chenoweth  
Dick Elkin  
Pius Weibel  
Al Friederick  
Darrel Foste  
Ernie Martin  
Dan Leasure  
David Spears  
Gail Taylor

## Salvage Donations

City of Champaign  
University of Illinois  
First Methodist Church, Champaign  
Ed Pelmore  
Peter & Kim Fox  
Jitters & Rush  
Murray Clifton  
Mr. & Mrs. Drollinger  
Allan Eckel  
Melanie & Chris Hill  
National Council of Teachers of English  
Holy Cross School

## Membership

### Charter Members (1981-1983)

Mrs. Helen Levin  
James & Mare Payne  
Rex & Karen Kummer  
Mr. & Mrs. George A. Miley  
Mary Lee Sargent & Ann Isenberg

### Ten to Fifteen Year Members

Ruth Miller  
Michele & Gary Olsen  
Trent Shepard

### Five to Ten Year Members

Pat & Harry Jensen  
Sheryl & Joe DeBarr  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Richmond  
Richard Cahill

Mrs. Velma Kurzweg  
Sarah & Robert Nemeth  
Jennifer Putman & Bruce Komadina

Art Zangerl

Perry Morris

### One to Five Year Members

Paige Weston & Lawrence Mate

Mindy Moncel

Rita Gentry

Suzanne Bissonnette & Randy Kangas

Roy & Nancy Holt

Jennifer Hines & Robert Krumm

John & Betsey Cronan

Tim Bartlett

Monica J. Cox

Dan & Kim Wurl

Zarina M. Hock

### New Members

Ann Zahner

Turner Family

Steve Scher

*Remember to check your mailing label for your membership renewal date. The date shown indicates when you last renewed; membership runs for one year from that date.*

## PACA Newsletter

P.O. Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, IL 61825

Jeffrey Gordon, President  
Anthony Bamert, Vice-President  
Kristin Solberg, Secretary  
Richard Cahill, Treasurer  
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